



November 13, 2007

Ms. Victoria J. Rutson  
Chief, Section of Environmental Analysis  
Surface Transportation Board  
359 E Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20423-0001

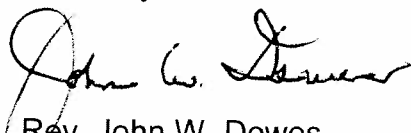
Dear Ms. Rutson:

I understand that Canadian National Railway Company plans to buy the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railway Company. I have been informed that, as a result of this transaction, at least 15 new freight trains will travel through the Barrington, Illinois area each day. According to some, the increase will be much larger than that, and the final number is completely unpredictable. Such an increase will require a great deal of examination to assure that traffic, noise and safety concerns of my organization are met.

I am the Pastor of The St. Anne Catholic Parish Community. I have been in this position for eighteen years. The St. Anne Community is dedicated to the celebration and sharing of Christian Faith in the Barrington area. The St. Anne Parish is bisected by the railroad crossing in question. The Parish has many services (daily mass, funerals, weddings etc) to accommodate more than 13,000 members. The St. Anne Parish also operates a parochial school attended each day by 550 students. A large increase in freight traffic will create a traffic nightmare that will be disruptive in countless ways.

From my experience as Pastor of a very large Catholic Parish, I understand that the federal government must consider all significant environmental impacts of its decisions, and issue a statement with alternatives and conditions before proceeding. I am certain that an extra 15 trains, each taking somewhere around five minutes to pass through the area, constitutes a significant impact on this region. I assume, therefore, that you will issue such a statement, which will give myself and others an opportunity to review the true environmental impacts of this transaction. I look forward to working with you and the rest of the Board in this process. Thank you.

Sincerely,

  
Rev. John W. Dewes  
Pastor